

A
CONCISE SKETCH
OF THE
Intended Revolution,
IN
ENGLAND;
WITH
A Few Hints
ON THE
Obvious Methods to avert it.

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But there where false Prophets also among the people, *even as there shall be false teachers among you*, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, *even denying the Lord that bought them*, and many shall follow their pernicious ways by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. These are they who *speaking evil of dignities*, and *despise Government*, while they promise men *Liberty* they themselves are the servants of corruption, *i. e. ambition.* 11 Peter.

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## DEDICATION.

TO ONE

WHOSE VIRTUES I MUCH REVERE.

SIR,

I Was resident in England, when some Trials in which you was a principal, appeared before a British Tribunal, and think, that if any man upon earth has cause to complain of the manner in which the laws of this country are conducted, you are that man. Yet we find you not like a modern *voluntary exile*, whining out your grievances to the destruction of your honest, zealous, but mistaken countrymen. You treated the evil as a trifle you had met with in this bad world—you fought not to calumniate the man under whose weakness, or under whose wickedness you had suffered oppression. When I contemplate your conduct, I am reminded of what christianity once was—I see a likeness to a primitive disciple, and gratefully deposite my labours at his feet.

W. A. H. 1870

# DEDICATION

TO

WHOSE VIRTUES & MUCH REVERED

SIR

I was resident in England, when some  
Thirty years ago you was a principal speaker before  
a British Tribunal, and think that if any man upon  
earth has a right to complain of the treatment which the  
laws of this country are conducted, you are that man.  
Yet we find you not like a modern politician, with  
whispering and backbiting, to the destruction of your  
honour, reputation, but mistaken countrymen. You re-  
sisted the evil as a crime you had met with in this land  
would—you fought not to exterminate the man under  
whose banner, or under whose whiskers, you had  
suffered oppression. When I contemplate your con-  
duct, I am reminded of what Christianity once was—  
I see a life of a primitive discipline, and generally  
devoting his labours to his race.

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A

CONCISE SKETCH

OF THE

Intended Revolution in England.

&c. &c.

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**I**N turbulent times it is natural for men of a philosophic turn, whose leisure is considerable, to direct their intellectual powers to the sources of uneasiness around them, and to endeavour to investigate its real causes. They will do this in some measure, to satisfy their own curiosity; and to learn the line of duty to which they should invariably adhere. If, of a candid disposition, they will endeavour to divest themselves of every species of prejudice in relating the result of their inquiries to others, and will invariably adhere to truth; on the one hand, they will conceal nothing from false delicacy; on the other, they will set down nought in malice.

That the alarms, which have for some time existed in this Kingdom, derive their almost immediate existence from a certain description of Gentlemen, who are prouder of the name of Philosophers than Divines, their unfounded lucubrations are abundantly forward to inform us.

B

A scheme of immense magnitude (but probably unfinished even in theory) appears to have originated with a well-known calculator,\* who has lived to see none of its parts completed, and is consequently gone without his promised reward; for the scheme in every feature of it, appears to be the natural offspring of an ambitious mind.

This scheme is to subvert entirely the present Constitution of this Kingdom, its Religion, and Laws; and to establish another (under which new measures are to be adopted) by transferring the power into very different hands.

To effect this pernicious change†, principles of religion, inimical to the existing tenets, were every where, and by every artifice dispersed. The Old Dissenters were many of them led to admit *new Ministers*, educated at seminaries for this very purpose,‡ into their pulpits, without any suspicion; and these well-tutored disciples played their parts so gradually, that many of their deluded audiences, had changed their religion, without ever once observing, that the change was for the *worse*. An unexpected obstacle however soon arose

\* It is natural to attribute the original plan to the best abilities; but if the numerous competitors should any of them dispute his claim to the palm, whatever intelligence may be conveyed to him (and many messengers have been and will be dispatched) it is highly probable, he will not be permitted to return even upon his parole.

† It is probable that these men made choice of their religious principles, not because they thought them true, but because they deemed them suitable to their purpose; such at least is the religion, in general, of the statesman, and this is their profession.

‡ One academy in this Kingdom, as remarkable for the variety of its situations as its tutors, appears in part to have been instituted for the purpose of instructing men to pray and preach politics. VIDE, Wakefield's account of it.

which convinced the schemers, that the sacred flame of devotion was not to be extinguished by artifices of this nature—there was still some religion left amongst these formal worshippers—the cheat was at length fully discovered, and ended in a considerable addition of numbers and strength to the established church.

Disappointed of obtaining the multitude by this manœuvre, for without the multitude they can do nothing, they have recently addressed their principles of liberty to the indigent; and their mutilated Christianity to the more polished orders of society with greater success: but this bubble is likewise burst in part: a republican spectre, has spread the alarm amongst the possessors of wealth, and the preachers of politics, like the dull church moralist, have but an inconsiderable minority left, of those whom their vanity or interest leads them to expect as hearers.

During this interval, the principals in the plot had been busily employed in diffeminating the seeds of diffention by their writings. They had secured the two principal Reviews, had established circulating Libraries, and had expended amazing sums of money & in

§ A gentleman, then high in office, informed the writer of this note, that he was met by a volunteer from the corps, who rode up to his carriage, and, *SANS CEREMONIE*, presented, what the Gentleman at first thought a pistol, but upon its being dropt into the carriage he found to be a curious pamphlet with a blue covering---Apropos of this deserter---at his first setting out in life, he was seen trudging towards Cambridge, with a pair of saddle bags upon his back. *ALMA MATER* rewarded his industry with a Fellowship and other emoluments, which enabled him to dress elegantly, and to insinuate himself into the good graces of a Lady, so far, as to obtain her hand and fortune---her inducement could never be guessed, for the delicate softness of the gentleman, had already dignified him with the appellation of *NANCY*, but we hope ingratitude to this Lady is not the delinquent's vice, whatever it may be to *ALMA MATER*.



propagating liberty and rational Christianity; for these were the *cant* terms made use of to conceal their seditious purposes.

All these manœuvres were the forerunners of some severe attacks upon the Barriers of the Church. The last of these, if I recollect right, marked the inattention of the ministerial party, to two very important facts; one, the sum paid annually by Government, to the Dissenters, which, as far as it goes, swells the expenditure, upon which their arguments against the State are principally grounded; the other, the shameful advantage they have over the established Church, in propagating their opinions\*; these ought undoubtedly to have been laid before the public, upon that memorable occasion; in other respects the Church was ably defended.

If they had been successful in this attempt, it is almost needless to observe, that places of trust would have been open to their adherents; by using a little caution, they would have crept imperceptibly into power, and of course would have proceeded with greater effect. Their scheme against government was already suspected, but the specious affectation of Philosophy, with which it was cloathed, had masqued its danger, and concealed its profligacy.

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\* There are very serious difficulties in the way of establishing chapels under the Mother Church—the consent of the Bishop and Vicar, the expence of Consecration fees, &c. from all which the Dissenters are free—their tabernacle is no sooner pitched than the overflowings of the Church must seek their religious refuge in it. This is evidently the principal cause of the increase of Dissenters. To remedy this evil, place the Sons of the Church upon an equal footing with Dissenters and they have nothing to fear.



At this period there was in the House of Commons, a minority brilliant in parts; and respectable in power, most of them probably unpledged to the schemers for any thing but a parliamentary reform, in which they were seconded by a number of country gentlemen; many of whom once associated to obtain that plausible, and in appearance salutary measure\*. The troubles in France were advancing fast, though the mistaken actors, upon that melancholy theatre, had begun to flatter themselves, that they were nearly over: so fully were they persuaded of this, that they had already formed a design of fomenting a rebellion in this country, upon the principles of Liberty and Equality.— They flattered themselves with hopes of a permanent government and should they succeed in obtaining that, they foresaw† their own commerce revived, and the republic, or limited monarchy aggrandized at the expence and upon the ruins of its neighbours.

An English *Stay-maker* was of sufficient weight in their councils, and both sanguine and vain enough, in his own temperament, to insure success to their infi-

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\* Upon a supposition that every man in the House of Commons would vote according to an unbiassed conscience, or an unprejudiced understanding, a reform would be highly salutary, but so long as a principle of corruption does, and must exist, so long as men will vote from principles of ambition or a view to private emolument, there must either be some opposite principle admitted to counteract this, or the minister can never long keep his ground. See more of this in PALEY'S THOUGHTS.

† It was plainly foreseen by the Jacobins, if their incendiary succeeded, in exciting the indigent against the opulent, that one of these events must take place; either the opulent or the manufacturers would escape to the nearest foreign shore----if the opulent were beaten, the capital for supporting commerce would be transferred to France----if the manufacturers gave way, the hands for conducting it. In either case France must be aggrandized and England ruined.

dious design. He made his appearance in England, some time in the year Ninety-one, or Ninety-two. At that moment, we may observe four distinct parties in this country, all of them inimical in their designs, to the constitution as is now stands.

The minority in the House of Commons; these were ostensible advocates for a parliamentary reform, the abolition of tythes, &c. the original schemers, whose principles we have already delineated: the French party with the Stay-maker at their head: and lastly, the *Sans Culottes*, or men which exist in every country, of the same description, as those who bore so large a share in the conspiracy of *Catiline*.

A coalition of parties was the first thing thought of by the French incendiary. This gentleman's effrontery had already introduced him to some of the first leaders of opposition; he waited upon them, no doubt, properly equipped by the Jacobins for the purpose, and proposed his schemes without much reserve. The conduct of some of these gentlemen has been extremely dubious; administration is probably in all their secrets, and it becomes not an individual to take the liberty of judging.

One thing is certain, B—ke's honor deserted him not at that period of life when the love of lucre is so absurdly prevalent. He raised himself upon the toe of anticipation, peeped over his few remaining years, shook his grey hairs at the prospect, and durst not be damned as a traitor, to his country.—The tide of vir-

tue rushed strongly thro' his aged breast, he warned the English Nation of its danger, in strains as pathetic, as eloquent, and as true, as ever flowed from mortal's pen. Priestley attacked him with his usual impudent sophistry, whilst Tatham supported him with argument. The world is in possession of the contest, and has assigned the palm as their prejudices or judgments have awarded it.

The minority were alarmed, and their phalanx entirely broken : even the original schemers condemned the impetuosity of the Stay-maker ; but the incendiary, tho' baffled, was by no means dismayed ; he wished to continue in treaty with the two discordant parties, and published at the same time, his first, and soon after, his second address to the Sans Culottes. The first libel was some time in introducing itself to public notice, but the very unexpected effect of the second address, brought him to his senses, and exercised his limbs in a hasty retreat.

The first publication contained much inflammatory matter, and many questions, but little reasoning. The second was a comparison betwixt the expences of America and Great-Britain, as absurd as the comparison would be betwixt the expences of Master Bobby unbreeched, and those of Sir Robert, after succeeding to his father's estate ; but his vexation and disappointment has afforded the world more useful information than the Rights of Man ; the Address to the Addressers, is evidently the publication of a mind chagrined and off its guard. His retreat to the National Convention, confirms the above statement of facts, in such a man-



ner, as long ago to have stamped conviction upon the writer's mind.

At this period \* the Royal Proclamation roused the Loyalty and fears of Britons to a sense of their duty and danger: Associations were form'd, and the indulgent and amiable sovereign had the satisfaction to find that he reigned in the hearts of a vast majority of his Subjects. One dangerous symptom however pervaded the season of triumph: The disturbers of peace, as if the impulse had been uniform, chimed in with the tune of the times, and thus inadvertently whispered a suspicion, *that one spirit animated the whole disaffected body, and that that body was compact and dangerous.*†

Hostilities were soon after commenced by them as if nothing had happened, and have been continued with little intermission to this day. Some few accidental checks they have received of a serious nature, and a

\* There are Gentlemen, in appearance, who have been hardy enough, to assert in print, that there has been no ground for our fears, that the whole was a ministerial manœuvre, to dupe the people of England into a war; but be it likewise remembered, that there have been scoundrels who have signed associations for the support of the constitution, while members of a convention to form a new one. Be it likewise remembered, that the court party in France was humbugged by such traitors as these, till the Bastille was taken; and then the wretches triumphed in their villany: these round assertions are in the estimation of all who are not blind, only so many positive proofs, that the scheme is proceeding with vigour. Pr----y is infinitely too irritable and vain to conceal what he knows; he has repeatedly warned the Minister, he has told him in plain English, "THAT A TRAIN IS LAID," and however backward we are in some instances to credit this curiosity of a man, we are not fool-hardy enough to deny, but that HE may have SOME LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS AFFAIR.

† The effect was like the effect in a regiment, when the word of command is given---Ground your Firelocks---and no sooner was the loyal party induced by their pacific disposition to discharge their pieces into the air, than the deceitful schemers shouldered their muskets and they were found ready cocked and primed.



curious letter has been adverted to, in the House of Commons, which has raised the doubts of some and confirmed the suspicion of others. Secret associations of a seditious complexion are continued, and infamous libels are still circulated to poison the patriotism and loyalty of the lower classes\*—numbered cards with a kind of watch-word are distributed amongst them—they meet with more caution in smaller parties†—their designs are more concealed than usual—and the silence is *only* like the silence that precedes a storm! Should these pernicious designs be accomplished for want of immediate and firm measures to frustrate them, probabilities can only be calculated, it baffles human foresight to foretell the consequences.

A certain description of men, of *unitarian*, if of any religious principles, are by nature, habit, and education, so excessively ambitious, that, if successful in their first efforts, they certainly would never be content without the ascendancy in government; but their *mild tempers* and *boasted candour* are objects of too much suspicion to entitle them to implicit confidence. There is not another sectarist nor a churchman in the kingdom who does not reprobate the idea of their ascendancy; unless he is seduced by sinister motives.—There is not an English Christian who would not

\* Parliamentary Reform, is the watch word; the meaning of it is supposed to be, a republic or death. Another small card has "GOD BE WITH US." upon it.

† Six in number---as soon as all are confirmed and sworn, they separate to make fresh converts.---The writer acknowledges that he has no better authority for this note than report.

rather die than submit to their usurpation. The candidates for power will do well to lay this down as a fixt principle of action, or experience will shortly teach them, it is *convincing truth*.

Another fact to be adverted to, is, That a revolution cannot possibly be effected, in any given time, without raising the people in a mass.—Are they to be raised by the delusive doctrine of equality?—this is to lay the foundation for rapine and bloodshed, over which a century may shed tears. The doctrine is at variance with the principles of Christianity and therefore can only be prolific of destruction. Matter of fact has proved the position; and if the experiment should be tried a thousand times, it will be invariably attended with similar consequences.

But for a moment, we will suppose the paroxysm of popular commotion entirely to destroy itself, by its own virulence, in a much less time than a century. Upon this supposition, let *those men*, who fancy that the image of God, in the faculty of human reason, presides in their understandings, calculate and weigh the evils which this insanity might produce in the space of seven short years: Alas! the calculation is already nearly made out for their inspection; and the page is so dreadfully stained with cruelty and blood, that a mind in any degree tinctured with the ingredients of mercy, turns from

\* Equality is here taken in its common acceptation, as implying an equal right at this moment to equal property---this after all the disputes upon the matter, is the only sense the common people could understand it in, and was in fact the sense which Tom P---- meant them to understand it in, and the sense in which they really did understand it in.

it with horror! Who is there vain enough, after what is before our eyes, to suppose he could direct the mass of the turbulent passions of this Kingdom when raised into action?—We smile at the self-complacency of that vain slave to ambition who dares to seize the gauntlet; and confess ourselves enthusiasts enough to believe, that the sovereignty can be achieved by no other than him “who rides in the whirlwind and directs the storm.”

The first frantic actors upon the stage, might be sent (according to the religion of France) to compare notes with their fellow schemers upon the stygian shores, if any place short of the tartarean gulph itself could be deemed secure enough for such turbulent souls: In the more serious language of Christianity, they would, in all probability, be launched into eternity to meet their God, the much insulted saviour in judgment.

Let men of this description reflect further, that the middle ranks (who were foremost to their own destruction in France) are aware of the dreadful consequences of civil commotions. In all commercial parts of the country, these, in general have stepped from the humble shed of poverty, under an indulgent government, and are realizing property, which they wish to transmit to their posterity; they are too virtuous in principle to sanction sedition, rapine, and murder; men of too great sense to be duped by the *cant* of Philosophy, and value their religion too much to exchange it for the barren reveries of re-animated paganism.

With pleasure I declare myself perfectly convinced, that this is the class in society, which in concurrence with



a government so excellent as ours, is always capable of stemming the torrent of sedition.

It may yet further be remarked, that the lower classes themselves are not so ripe for revolt as many imagine. Amongst men of this class, in the most populous parts of the country, Religion has lately made a considerable progress.—The labours of one of the first classical scholars of this century, who had the peculiar art of accommodating himself to their capacities, has been crowned with wonderful success: Throughout his extensive circle, (speaking generally) the fornicator has become chaste, the drunkard sober, and the villain honest.—One of the first comfortable consequences to this change has been the accommodation, of these lately civilized *Brethren*, with Breeches, *ergo*, they are no longer Sans Culottes; they are now rejoicing in the fruits of their industry; and are stepping fast forwards into the middle ranks of society.

An artful propagator of falsehood, in a well-known Review, has indeed lately altered his mode of treating their leaders, from sneering contempt to fulsome adulation: but his motive is too evident; besides, these men have consciences, and men with consciences are not very easily tricked into sedition.

But let not these considerations lull the middle ranks of society into a dangerous security. Most daring attempts have actually been made to corrupt the army and the multitude. We know their origin, and we know the abettors of these nefarious designs:—We know the principles which have been held forth are



specious and seductive.—In France they have been found contagious to a miracle; in England they have had stronger heads and better hearts to contend with. Yet for the sake of religion and humanity, let us not treat them with inattention; if they were true they would increase with opposition, but since they are certainly fallacious, “by opposing we shall end them.” Our wives and our children plead with us, through the bewitching channel of love and affection, to stand at least upon the defensive, with manly fortitude; every thing desirable in this life is at stake; and our exertions will be sanctioned with the approbation of conscience.

The methods to be adopted are as obvious as the duty itself is plain. Let us take an immediate advantage of the hint thrown out by the minister. Let the respectable members of society be formed into corps without delay, as numerous as can be collected. Let them wield the sword, not for the cruel purpose of desolation, but as a symbol of established peace. The deposit of our lives, our fortunes, and our liberties can never be intrusted to safer hands. They will awe the seditious, and even stand as a barrier to preserve our liberties from the grasp of power, if any thing could be feared from the present father of his country.

The populace and the army may be seduced, or corrupted, or even converted into abettors of tyranny; but the integrity of these men will be founded upon principles which claim the fullest confidence.

Another adviseable step would be to petition the legislative body, to enact a clear and decisive law, *That every turbulent member of society, found guilty of sedition,*

*should be for ever banished this delightful country, to seek, in the fullest possession of his property, some more hospitable climate and more indulgent government.*

It is a matter also of material importance, constantly to secure a decided majority over Unitarians and Republicans, in the committees of all public Libraries, and Sunday schools: A review of reviews should be instituted, to point out the designs of our enemies in these publications, to scout their party remarks, ridicule their paltry and unmerited applause, and detect the destructive poison concealed in their pages. The Trustees of all public schools, should attend diligently to the principles of the man, to whom they have intrusted the education of our youth. Our Bishops should encourage the *zealous* clergy in their dioceses, for assuredly they are our firmest forces; they combat the unitarians wherever they are admitted with incomparable agility and success, and are found uniformly, by experience, to be the best defenders (under God) of mitres and crowns.

If these steps should prove successful, the last thing to be recommended is, to petition parliament, to establish churches or chapels\* in those districts, where population has exceeded the piety of our ancestors:—Where the aged and decrepit want the consolations of religion; and the young are destitute of the principles of the established church.

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\* If not taken up by parliament, a measure so salutary, should be conducted by general subscription.

These are the reforms which religion dictates as necessary, to make us once more a peaceable, happy, and flourishing kingdom.

Such have been the sentiments of an inquiring man unknown to fame, and not anxious of any thing so volatile as popular applause. The writers he has perused, have appeared to him, tinctured with false delicacy, and afraid of bursting the bubble which covered the enemies designs with so transparent a surface that the contents were partially seen. He has therefore made a small puncture, through which the features of the main scheme are perfectly discernible. Nothing but motives of conscience could have induced his retiring mind to interfere with contending parties, but his pen is drawn in defence of every thing that is dear, and his sword, is likewise at his country's call, if her dangers should claim her son from the humble shed and habits of peace.

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P. S. Should the reader remain in any degree uncertain of truths, which the writer conceived to want nothing but a proper arrangement to be perfectly convincing, he may derive much information from the following authorities,—Disney and Priestley's Political Works, *passim*—Williams' Letter on Political Liberty—Paine's Address to the Addressers—Miles's Conduct of France—Monthly Review, Vol. 9, Page 96, ditto 109.—British Critic, Jan. 1792, page 72,



ditto 31—Analytical Review, February, 1794, page 165, ditto 172, &c. Dr. P——'s vanity has again been exhibited in a Fast Sermon, which is replete with information, and is well explained by the Analytical Review upon it. These authorities evidently tend to prove, that a limb of the body politic is deeply infected. **THE INFLAMMATION APPROACHES THE VITALS—A SPEEDY AND EFFECTUAL REMEDY MUST BE APPLIED—IF IT SHOULD NOT, DEATH OR AMPUTATION WILL BE THE CERTAIN CONSEQUENCE.**

